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Recent Photography Acquisitions on View at The Cleveland Museum of Art

CLEVELAND (Nov. 20, 2003) — The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) presents **Signs of Life: Recent Photography Acquisitions**, an exhibition that reflects photographers' early and continuing fascinations with inaccessible, often distant sites of physical, historic or cultural significance. This exhibition will open **Nov. 22, 2003** and remain on view through **April 7, 2004**. It is the third installment in a year-long survey of the CMA's photography holdings acquired during the past decade.

The survey previously included **Gifts from the CMA Friends of Photography** (Dec. 7, 2002 – Apr. 23, 2003), which featured 15 color and black-and-white photographs by such artists as Sally Mann, Richard Misrach and Larry Fink and the **Charles Isaacs and Carol Nigro Collection of American Photography** (Apr. 26 – Sept. 10, 2003), an exhibition of 21 stunning 19th - century photographs.

Admission to this exhibition and the Museum is free.

The ten works in this exhibition represent the 164-year history of photography and are indicative of CMA's photography collection's chronological breadth, aesthetic achievement and technical innovation. The images express photographers' ongoing desire to satisfy visual curiosity and to overcome logistical challenges in such settings as Africa, the Middle East, China, Mexico, the United States and the moon.

Artists included in this exhibition are Louis de Clercq (French, 1836–1901), Mark Klett (American, b. 1952), Andrew Borowiec (American, b. 1956), Carrie Mae Weems (American, b. 1953), Vernon Heath (British, 1819–1895), Ernest de Caranza (French, active about 1850–1863), Lois Connor (American, b. 1951), Laura Gilpin (American, 1891–1979), James Robertson (British, 1813?–after 1865) and Felice Beato (British, born Italy, about 1830–about 1906?) and an image from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Highlights in this exhibition include the lunar panorama *Lunar Panoramic Mosaic/Montage*, 1966, created on the first of seven Surveyor missions (1966–68) when NASA was searching for a site suitable for a manned landing. This work has ten separate mosaics that were photographed and hinged together. The image is a startling update to romantic 19th-century photos of the moon. Ernest de Caranza's *Fontaine de la Sophie, Constantinople*, (1852) taken during his extensive travels on scientific missions throughout the Asiatic part of the Ottoman Empire helped shape the mid 19th-century Westerner's understanding of this historic city. Carrie Mae Weems (American b. 1953) *Untitled* (1993), a triptych that features the entryways, towers and corridors of Djenné, Mali, one of the oldest urban sites in Western Africa. These were taken during her first trip to Africa in 1993.

The Cleveland Museum of Art receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.